

- (4) Communication systems;
- (5) Navigation equipment and navigation lights;
- (6) Fire protection or detection equipment;
- (7) Bilge pumps; or
- (8) General alarm system.
- (b) Each generator must be attached to an independent prime mover.

§ 28.360 Electrical distribution systems.

- (a) Each electrical distribution system which has a neutral bus or conductor must have the neutral bus or conductor grounded.
- (b) A grounded electrical distribution system must have only one connection to ground. This ground connection must be at the switchboard or, on a nonmetallic vessel, at the common ground point.

§ 28.365 Overcurrent protection and switched circuits.

- (a) Each power source must be protected against overcurrent. Overcurrent devices for generators must be set at a value not exceeding 115 percent of the generator full load rating.
- (b) Except for a steering circuit, each circuit must be protected against both overload and short circuit. Each overcurrent device in a steering system power and control circuit must provide short circuit protection only.
- (c) Each ungrounded current carrying conductor must be protected in accordance with its current carrying capacity by a circuit breaker or fuse at the connection to the switchboard or distribution panel bus.
- (d) Each circuit breaker and each switch must simultaneously open all ungrounded conductors.
- (e) The grounded conductor of a circuit must not be disconnected by a switch or an overcurrent device unless all ungrounded conductors of the circuit are simultaneously disconnected.
- (f) Navigation light circuits must be separate, switched circuits having fused disconnect switches or circuit breakers so that only the appropriate navigation lights can be switched on.
- (g) A separate circuit with overcurrent protection at the main distribution panel or switchboard must be provided for each radio installation.

§ 28.370 Wiring methods and materials.

- (a) All cable and wire must have insulated, stranded copper conductors of the appropriate size and voltage rating for the circuit.
- (b) Each conductor must be No. 22 AWG or larger. Conductors in power and lighting circuits must be No. 14 AWG or larger. Conductors must be sized so that the voltage drop at the load terminals is not more than 10 percent.
- (c) Cable and wiring not serving equipment in a high risk fire area such as a galley, laundry, or machinery space must be routed as far as practicable from these spaces. As far as practicable, cables serving duplicated essential equipment must be separated so that a casualty that affects one cable does not affect the other.
- (d) Cable and wire for power and lighting circuits must:
 - (1) For circuits of less than 50 volts, meet 33 CFR 183.425 and 183.430; and
 - (2) For circuits of 50 volts or greater:
 - (i) Meet sections 310-13 and 310-15 of NFPA 70, except that asbestos insulated cable and dry location cable must not be used;
 - (ii) Be listed by Underwriters Laboratories Inc. as UL Boat or UL Marine Shipboard cable; or
 - (iii) Meet 46 CFR part 111, subpart 111.60.
- (e) All metallic cable armor must be electrically continuous and grounded to the metal hull or the common ground point at each end of the cable run, except that final sub-circuits (those supplying loads) may be grounded at the supply end only.
- (f) A wiring termination and connection must be made in a fire retardant enclosure such as a junction box, fixture enclosure, or panel enclosure. A fire retardant plastic enclosure is acceptable.

§ 28.375 Emergency source of electrical power.

- (a) Each vessel must have an emergency source of electrical power which is independent of the main sources of electrical power and which is located outside the main machinery space.

(b) The emergency source of electrical power must be capable of supplying all connected loads continuously for at least 3 hours.

(c) Except as provided in paragraphs (d) and (e) of this section, the following electrical loads must be connected to the emergency source of power:

- (1) Navigation lights;
- (2) Steering systems;
- (3) Bilge pumps;
- (4) Fire protection and detection systems, including fire pumps;
- (5) Communication equipment;
- (6) General alarm system and;
- (7) Emergency lighting.

(d) A vessel less than 36 feet (11.0 meters) in length need only supply communication equipment by an emergency source of electrical power if flashlights are provided.

(e) A vessel less than 79 feet (24 meters) in length which is not dependent upon electrical power for propulsion, including propulsion control systems or steering, need only supply emergency lighting, navigation equipment, general alarm system, and communication systems by the emergency source of power.

(f) Where the emergency source of power is a generator, the generator prime mover must have a fuel supply which is independent of other prime movers.

[CGD 88-079; 56 FR 40393, Aug. 14, 1991; 56 FR 49822, Oct. 1, 1991]

§ 28.380 General structural fire protection.

(a) *Fire hazards to be minimized.* Each vessel must be constructed so as to minimize fire hazards insofar as is reasonable and practicable.

(b) *Combustibles insulated from heated surfaces.* An internal combustion engine exhaust, galley uptake, electrical heating tape, or similar source of ignition must be kept clear of and suitably insulated from combustible material. A dry exhaust system for an internal combustion engine on a wooden or fiber reinforced plastic vessel must be installed in accordance with ABYC P-1.

(c) *Separation of machinery and fuel tank spaces from accommodation spaces.*

(1) Each accommodation space must be separated from machinery and fuel tank spaces by a fire resistant bound-

ary which will prevent the passage of vapors.

(2) Each pipe and cable penetration between an accommodation space and a machinery or a fuel tank storage space must be sealed.

(d) *Paint and flammable liquid lockers.* Each vessel carrying paint and flammable liquids must be equipped with a steel or a steel lined storage locker.

(e) *Insulation.* Except as provided in paragraphs (e)(1) and (e)(2) of this section, insulation must be noncombustible.

(1) In machinery spaces, combustible insulation may be used for pipe and machinery lagging.

(2) In cargo spaces and refrigerated compartments of service spaces, combustible insulation may be used.

(f) *Vapor barrier.* Where insulation of any type is used in spaces where flammable and combustible liquids or vapors are present, e.g., machinery spaces and paint lockers, a vapor barrier which covers the insulation must be provided.

(g) *Paint.* Nitrocellulose or other highly flammable or noxious fume producing paints or lacquers must not be used on the vessel.

(h) *Mattresses.* Polyurethane foam mattresses are prohibited.

NOTE: The U.S. Department of Commerce Standard for Mattress Flammability (FF4-72.16) in 16 CFR part 1632, subpart A, applies to each mattress.

(i) *Fiber reinforced plastic.* When the hull, a deck, deckhouse, or superstructure of a vessel is partially or completely constructed of fiber reinforced plastic, the resin used must be fire retardant.

(j) *Cooking areas.* Vertical or horizontal surfaces within 0.9144 meters (3 feet) of cooking appliances must be composed of noncombustible material or covered by noncombustible material. Curtains, draperies, or free hanging fabrics are not permitted within 0.9144 meters (3 feet) of cooking appliances.

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